AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 33, and 38-40, amend claims 31, 32, 34, 36 and 37, and add new claims 41-44.

31.   (Currently Amended) A data system comprising:

a data storage card having a data storage medium;

a housing comprising a panel;

an opening formed in the panel sized for passage of the card therethrough along a first path substantially parallel to the axis of the card;

a card support for receiving said card and which is movable between a load/unload position and a read/write position wherein the load/unload ~~positioned~~ position is along said first path and said read/write position is located on a second path substantially perpendicular to said first path;

a card handler mechanism comprising at least one pair of driving members for engaging and moving the card between the opening and the card support;

a data head; and

means for moving ~~at least one of~~ the data head during reading and writing ~~and the card support carrying the card relative to one another~~, whereby the data head can read data from and/or write data to the data storage medium when the card support is at the read/write position.

32. (Currently Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the ~~moving~~ means causes the data head to move along substantially straight parallel tracks along the data storage medium.

33. (Cancelled)

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34. (Currently Amended) A data unit~~, for use with a~~ ~~substrate having first and second edges and a data surface~~ ~~region therebetween,~~ comprising:

a base;

a substrate support, configured to support a substrate, mounted to the base;

a data head drive mounted to the base, the data head drive comprising a data head reciprocally moveable along a ~~second~~ linear path;

~~a step driver controllably moving at least one of the data~~ ~~head drive and the substrate support relative to one another~~ ~~along a first path and said second path;~~

first and second data head support surfaces positioned at opposite ends of a ~~second~~ the linear path and adjacent to said substrate support~~, said first and second paths being transverse~~ ~~to one another~~; and

said data head ~~comprising a data head surface which~~ ~~contacts~~ moving over said first and second data head support surfaces as said data head moves along ~~the~~ opposite ends of said ~~second~~ linear path.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method for reading and/or writing data ~~from/to a plurality of parallel data tracks on a substrate~~ comprising:

~~positioning a data head at a first position on the~~ ~~substrate;~~

moving the data head along a first data track ~~on the~~ of a substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the first data track, the substrate being part of a rectangular data card;

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repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced-apart from the first data track; and

moving the data head along a second data track ~~on~~ of the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the second data track,

wherein ~~the moving steps are carried out in a manner that~~ the first and second data tracks are parallel, substantially curved, constant-radius data tracks.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for reading and/or writing data ~~from/to a plurality of parallel data tracks on a substrate~~ comprising:

~~moving said substrate on a substrate support to a location accessible by a data head;~~

~~positioning a data head at a first position on the substrate;~~

moving ~~the~~ a data head along a magnetic first data track ~~on the~~ of a substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the first data track, the substrate being part of a rectangular data card;

~~repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced-apart from the first data track, wherein the repositioning step is carried out by~~ moving the data head in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first data ~~tracks~~ track;

moving the data head along a magnetic second data track ~~on~~ of the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the second data track, wherein the first and second data tracks are parallel substantially straight data tracks.

38-40. (Cancelled)

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41. (New) A data communication method comprising:

inserting a rectangular data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with a magnetic material of the data card; and

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving data head in a linear manner along a first data track, and subsequently communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second data track, wherein the first and second data tracks are substantially-straight parallel data tracks.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein between the moving of the data head along the first and second data tracks, the data card is repositioned.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the magnetic material is on an exterior surface of the data card.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the data head contacts the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the data head is a flying head that does not contact the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

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